

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 04699 150301Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
CU-00 /064 W
-----026132 152226Z /73

R 141058Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7882
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY) NI
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO NIGERIA: DEMONSTRATIONS
AND DISTURBANCES

1. FOR THE RECORD, EMBASSY REPORTS THE FOLLOWING
MINOR NEGATIVE MANIFESTATIONS (OTHER THAN NEGATIVE
PRESS COMMENT) WHICH OCCURRED DURING PRESIDENT
CARTER'S VISIT TO NIGERIA.

2. VARIOUS POSTERS, FOR EXAMPLE 'CARTER: GO
BAN THE NEUTRON BOMB,' PRODUCED BY THE NIGERIA COMMITTEE
OF AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES' SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION (AAPSO)
APPEARED ON WALLS AND BRIDGES IN SCATTERED PARTS OF LAGOS
DURING THE NIGHT OF MARCH 31. MOST OF THE POSTERS WERE TORN DOWN BY
POLICE AND TROOPS IN THE MORNING HOURS OF APRIL 1. IN A SCUFFLE
WITH POLICE REMOVING POSTERS NEAR THE CENOTAPH, SEVERAL
PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED AND TAKEN AWAY BEFORE THE WREATH-LAYING
CEREMONY.

3. LATER, WHAT WE FEEL WERE POLITICALLY INSPIRED
PRESS ACCOUNTS DESCRIBED THE SCUFFLE NEAR THE
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CENOTAPH AS 'A DEMONSTRATION BY ABOUT 100 NIGERIAN
PROGRESSIVES, STUDENTS AND WORKERS' IN WHICH THREE
AAPSO LEADERS, TRADE UNIONISTS JOHN AKERELE AND N. O.
MENONE AND I. AKPAN, LECTURER IN THE SCHOOL OF MINES, ILORIN,
HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY POLICE AND WERE STILL BEING DETAINED.

4. WE ALSO RECEIVED REPORTS THAT SOME STUDENTS AT THE

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS BEGAN TO ASSEMBLE FOR A PROTEST MARCH ON APRIL 1. POLICE WERE ORDERED TO CLOSE OFF ROADS LEADING INTO THE CITY FROM THE UNIVERSITY AND TO USE TEAR GAS, IF NECESSARY, TO BREAK UP THE GROUP. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS DISPERSED.

5. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITIES OF IBADAN AND IFE STAGED A COMBINED DEMONSTRATION IN IBADAN PROTESTING THE CARTER VISIT AND CARRYING PLACARDS CONDEMNING U.S. INVESTMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE HAVE NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

6. COMMENT: ALL OF THESE ACTIONS WERE SO MINOR AS PRACTICALLY TO ESCAPE PUBLIC NOTICE. IN SUM THEY PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF THE FACT THAT IN THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT SERIOUS POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS CANNOT TAKE PLACE IN THIS COUNTRY WITHOUT THE SUFFERANCE OF THE FMG. IN THE CASE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT, THE FMG HAD CLEARLY DECIDED THAT NO SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD OCCUR.

WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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